

JOB CORPS

PARTNERSHIPS THAT WORK

Dallas Region

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Job Corps Students Briefed on Law Enforcement

Reprinted with permission of the Laredo Morning Times, Adriana Arce, Times staff writer

Students at the Laredo Job Corps Center gained a broad insight into the field of law enforcement Friday, from a renowned criminologist.

Stephen Walters, Ph.D., who has numerous publications in journals such as the *Justice Professional*, *American Journal of Criminal Justice* and *Offender Rehabilitation*, gave the students and overall understanding of the various fields of criminology.

He also stressed the significant role a college degree plays in furthering a law enforcement career.

Walters was the first in a series of guest speakers brought to the center by Women in Community Service who are promoting a college education at Job Corps.

"A college degree is a virtual necessity when entering a federal agency, and is also important for getting ahead at the local level of law

enforcement," Walters explained.

He informed students of the requirements for federal and state agencies, as well as correctional positions and local police.

Tatiana Friar, of WICS, said this is an initiative to expose students to different possibilities after completing the Job Corps program.

"We want these kids to understand that they don't have to limit themselves. After their vocational training, which already allows them to be a step ahead, they can study to become an FBI agent, or be part of the Secret Service, whatever they choose to do," she said.

Alex Davila, 18, who is in the process of obtaining his GED, is part of the canine handler program.

Job Corps gives students on hand training in canine handling and also offers students education in security.

"We train dogs to detect narcotics

and sometimes even conduct searches at schools," Davila said.

Davila explained that Job Corps has had a great affect on his life, and helped him leave a past that was caught up in gangs.

He said that after joining Job Corps he thought the canine-handling program would be fun because he loves dogs.

"Now that I have changed, I want to join Customs or Border Patrol, anything in which I can work with dogs," Davila said.

He said that after listening to the presentation given by Walters he plans to first join the military to assist him in funding for a college education.

WICS intends to bring a guest speaker to Job Corps once a month.

(Times staff writer Adriana Arce can be reached at 956-728-2565 or by e-mail aarce@lmtonline.com)

Building the Foundation for the Careers of Tomorrow

On May 22, 2003, The New Orleans Job Corps Center celebrated the groundbreaking ceremony for their future home. The trainees and staff joined over 125 local neighbors, employers, community leaders, and dignitaries to celebrate this occasion. U.S. Department of Labor National Director of Job Corps, Richard Trigg, thanked the members of the Louisiana Congressional Delegation, City and State officials, the Center's Community Relations Council, representatives of the business

community, and the local residents for their participation in the day's event. He also thanked them for their long-standing support of the New Orleans Center. "I am

proud to say that the relationship the community enjoys with the New Orleans Job Corps Center is not only strong, but a mutual one. These are extraordinary times for the Hollygrove Community, the City of New Orleans, the State of Louisiana, and the Job Corps program in general. We would not be here today breaking ground without their



(L-R): Jose de Olivares (Regional Director), Kenya White (Office of the Mayor), The Honorable John A. Batt (Councilman, District A), Amelia A. Oliver (Center Director), and Richard Trigg (National Director of Job Corps)

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JOB CORPS News

Of Tusks and Trunks and Tails

By Dean Christopher



Ancient wisdom has a nice way of staying fresh and relevant, which is probably how it got to be ancient in the first place. For example, consider this timeless Indian fable.

Three blind men are asked to touch, and then describe, an elephant. The first man grabs a tusk and concludes that an elephant is a hard, sharp animal made of curved bone. The second wraps his arms around a leg and decides that an elephant is rough-skinned, like a warm tree. The third grips the tail and imagines a skinny animal made of leathery cartilage.

We could add other blind men checking out other elephant parts, but the point is clear: each man in the fable is *partly* right – but *entirely* wrong. It's a lesson that still holds true today. Subjective viewpoints, including our first-hand experience, no matter how sincere or how correct, no matter how well founded, can take us only so far, because any one viewpoint – by itself – is incomplete, and therefore likely to be deceptive. When it comes to the really big issues, we're all vision-impaired. The bigger the issue, the harder it is to see the whole picture. That's because comprehensive topics (the economy, international politics, educational techniques) are simply too elephantine for any one mind,

any one perception, any one individual's set of experiences.

Still, it's only natural for us to focus on the tusk or tail nearest us – whatever we can get our hands around. The assumption is that if we can touch it, it's "obviously" the most important part, the real deal, the whole story. And that's a very nearsighted assumption, because it might cause us to miss a great big juicy elephant.

Wait, there's still another angle to the story. *Sometimes there is no elephant.* Sometimes all that's there is a jumble of tusks, trunks, and tails.

Either way, how could we ever be sure unless we talk about it to each other?

That's why it's so important to master the art of the overview. This is best done through collaboration. Collaboration is essential to the success of any social program as wide-ranging as Job Corps. For a full, proper interpretation of the whole critter, we need as much information exchange as possible. And *everyone's* information and experiences count.

If you get enough blind people examining it, you can end up with a pretty thorough understanding of the elephant. But, I repeat, only if they talk to one another about it, instead of delivering separate opinions and quibbling about who's right and who's wrong. The more observations we collect, the more we exchange information, the greater

the clarity of our interpretations.

This newsletter is one medium we have for discussing our elephants. Here we can share ideas, work through our various teaching or administrative issues, learn from – and support – one another. We may all have different job descriptions, and work in different locations, with very different responsibilities. But it's all part of the same Job Corps mission – various parts of the same animal. There is a lot to be gained by turning these pages into more than a source of news, more than just a grapevine. We can make it an effective professional forum for developing better ways to serve the clients, while improving overall regional performance through closer communications.

So tell us what you're doing, what you're thinking, what your experiences have been. Questions, answers, complaints, suggestions, fears, ideas, or concerns? Put them out there. They're all welcome. Don't be shy! Let us hear from you. Chances are, someone in the region has an answer for your question, a solution to your problem, or maybe just a viewpoint you may find helpful or amusing.

Get your part of the elephant into the regional dialogue. Who knows? Maybe some day something you write us this afternoon will become a timeless American fable.

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support," Trigg remarked.

"Dating back since 1964, Job Corps has trained two million young adults in the areas of educational, vocational, and social development benefiting many of them to better their lives," Trigg added.

In commemoration of the day's activities, New Orleans City Councilman, John Batt, by City Council Proclamation, declared May 22, 2003, New Orleans Job Corps Day.

The New Orleans Job Corps Center, under the direction of the U.S. Department of Labor, originally opened this non-residential center as a pilot program in 1988 to service

the needs of youth within the greater New Orleans area. Fifteen years later, the commencement of this construction, the continuing support of the community, and the overwhelming success of the graduates has validated the New Orleans Job Corps Center's existence and justifies its continued growth.

Following the reception, which showcased the Culinary Arts and Hospitality, Travel, and Tourism trainees' hosting and serving skills, Metairie Bank and Trust, a committed local employer-partner, presented the New Orleans Job Corps Center Student Government with a \$1,000 donation.

This 14-month, \$11 million project will provide 400 plus jobs and infuse millions of dollars into the area's economy during the construction of their new center. The facility will include a vocational building, administrative/education building, wellness and dental offices, daycare facility, and accommodations for a community-based One-Stop service center. This project will allow the New Orleans Job Corps Center to continue their mission as the area's premier career development services provider in a facility that will be fundamental in "Building the Foundation for the Careers of Tomorrow."

JOB CORPS News

Ouachita Job Corps Center Welcomes New Center Director – Valerie Harwood

Valerie Harwood grew up in Colorado and worked on her undergraduate and graduate degrees from University of Northern Colorado in Greeley. Harwood, a married mother of two daughters, taught in the public school system for 18 years prior to joining the Job Corps family. Her strong educational background provides her with a clear understanding of the needs of today's youth. In 1991, Harwood began her Job Corps career at the Boxelder Job

Corps Center in the South, and moved on to the Pine Knot Job Corps in Kentucky in 1997 where she served as education director for 6 years. On June 24, 2003, Harwood accepted the position of Center Director for Ouachita Job Corps Center, bringing with her an abundance of expertise. When asked about her greatest strength, she'll tell you it's her ability to understand how to merge traditional education into the Job Corps arena and comments, "By work-

ing together, the staff members of Ouachita Job Corps are providing our students with not only the education and vocational skills necessary to succeed, but the life skills and employability skills that will allow them to have a bright, successful future. As we say, we are in the business of providing direction for the employee of tomorrow." The staff at Ouachita Job Corps welcomes Valerie Harwood and the opportunity to follow this brilliant, strong leader.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I am new to Job Corps – can you tell me how many surveys are conducted with Job Corps graduates and former enrollees at the 6 and 12-month intervals? *New to Job Corps*

Dear New to Job Corps,

Welcome to the Job Corps family! In response to your question, currently Job Corps is conducting seven follow-up surveys that encompass placed former enrollees, non-placed former enrollees, placed graduates, and non-placed graduates. Former enrollees are students who enrolled with Job Corps, stayed in the program for at least 60 days, but did not complete the program. Placement is determined through employ-

ment or participation in an alternate school program. The seven surveys are:

90-Day Non-Placed Former Enrollee Survey is collected from a sampling of non-placed former enrollees that constitutes about one-third of all former enrollees. The random selection is contacted to complete the survey 90 days after leaving the center.

90-Day Placed Former Enrollee Survey is conducted with all placed former enrollees. Contact is made 90 days after leaving the center.

90-to-120 Day Checkpoint of Placed Graduates contacts all placed graduates at intervals of 60 and 90 days after initial placement to complete an eligibility

checkpoint.

6 Month Survey of Placed Graduates is conducted approximately 6 months after initial placement with all placed graduates.

12 Month Survey of Placed Graduates is completed approximately 12 months after initial placement of all placed graduates.

12 Month Survey of Non-Placed Graduates contacts all non-placed graduates 12 months after separation from the center to complete the survey.

Employer/School Re-verification is a brief survey conducted with employers and schools of placed graduates/former enrollees who cannot be reached otherwise.

Ask Arla



Dear Arla,

I've noticed that most of the regional print items have gone through changes or have been discontinued and replaced with other items. I think

this is great on behalf of the region, but I am curious to know why we've yet to see a revised or updated catalog. I requested a revised catalog a few months back and was told that the catalog didn't contain any of the new materials. Are there any plans to update it? *PM – Oklahoma*

Dear P.M.,

Actually, there is a new catalog available – please contact me to request one. The reason

we waited to update the catalog was that too many pieces were already in the works for revision. If we'd updated the catalog before, we would have had to revise on a monthly or bimonthly basis – and the cost would have been tremendous. Now, that we have most of the new items complete, we've revised the catalog to reflect the new materials. We do apologize for the wait, but we're really glad to announce we have the new catalog.

Dear Arla,

I was recently on the regional website and I was curious to find out why the newsletter is available online, but the directory is not. Can you tell me why?

J.G. – Texas

Dear J.G.,

Currently, we are in the process of re-creating/designing the regional website to improve its use, navigation, and functionality. In this process is the availability of the directory online, as well as several other options still in the works. As soon as we have the layout finished and approved by the region, it'll be online. Please keep an eye out for it.

All articles, information, Letters to the Editor, Ask Arla letters, and CDSS Directory changes for the September newsletter are due by **Friday, August 29, 2003** to:

Arla de Hoyos

922 S. Alamo • San Antonio, TX 78205
210.226.2827 phone • 210.226.6827 fax
rla@cuttingedgessa.com



The 2003 Regional Academic Olympics is quickly approaching! This year's event will be held October 5-8, 2003, in San Antonio, Texas, at the Marriott Rivercenter Hotel. As in previous years, the event will web cast to the centers live through the assistance of the Job Corps Data Center, Bauhaus Media Group, Inc., and consultant, Dean Christopher. The three-day competition is scheduled to open with a welcome reception on Sunday, October 5, 2003, the evening prior to the actual competition. On behalf of the region, we'd like to wish each Academic Olympic

team and its individual members the best of luck!

Hotel/Event Information:

Marriott Rivercenter

101 Bowie Street
San Antonio, Texas 78205
(800) 228-9290 Reservations

- **Reservation cut-off date is Friday, September 12, 2003**

- Hotel room block is under U.S. Department of Labor/Job Corps

- Nightly Room Rates are \$91/single and \$105/double
- Tax-Exempt forms must be presented upon check-in

The hotel cut-off date for the event is Friday, September 12, 2003, and is fast approaching, so be sure to make your reservations prior to this date as we cannot be guaranteed rooms or these rates thereafter. If you have any questions regarding the upcoming event, please contact Arla de Hoyos, Regional CDSS Administrative Assistant, at (210) 226-2827.

Center Tidbits

David L. Carrasco

Congratulations to all 32 David L. Carrasco Job Corps students that received their high school diplomas on May 28. Twenty-seven students enrolled in the center's Accelerated High School Diploma (AHSD) program received their diplomas from the El Paso Independent School District's Sunset High School. Five other students graduated from their respective high schools through the center's co-enrollment program. When asked about the AHSD program, Director of Academic Education, Rita Fuentes commented, "I continue to be very proud of the work done by Ms. Garcia, our AHSD Program Instructor, and all of the academic instructors who work very hard in helping our students achieve their goals."

Food service students in Santiago "Sunny" Torres' class are putting their culinary skills to the test. Upon completing the course, Mr. Torres has the students plan a menu, develop a shopping list, and assign preparation/cooking duties for a formal luncheon served to six invited staff members. According to Torres, "I decided that the students needed a final test because they need to demonstrate the culinary techniques and skills that they learned in class. They also need to learn the importance of working together as a team."

Senior citizens at the San Juan Community Center enjoyed a Mother's Day celebration on May 9, thanks in part to the time and effort of

nurse assistant students from center and their instructor, Leticia Chavez, RNC. The students spent the day with the 200+ seniors and partook in feeding them, helping them with their wheelchairs/medical equipment, playing table games, and dancing with them. While the students were at the community center, members of the Student Government Association were hosting a Mother's Day luncheon at the David L. Carrasco Job Corps Center for all student and staff mothers. The complimentary luncheon was accompanied with entertainment provided by student vocalist Vannya Yescas and Juan Lechuga, Director of Vocational Training on the keyboard.

Gary

Congressman Ron Paul recently visited the Gary Job Corps Community and spoke highly of the center and the Job Corps program. Paul is quoted as saying, "I believe Job Corps does an admirable job helping young people gain valuable skills." An avid and strong supporter, Paul has signed a number of "Dear Colleague" letters to support the authorization of additional Job Corps centers and increased funding. Gary Job Corps machinist student, James Coffman, created and presented a plaque to the supportive congressman. The polished aluminum plaque, which is engraved with the congressman's name and the Job Corps logo, is reported to sit on the front of Paul's desk in D.C.

Gary recently hosted a newly elected officials gathering to celebrate the election of new

San Marcos City Councilmen, John Diaz and John Thomaide, and Hays County Commissioner Representative, Suzanne Williams. Center students from the machine shop created and presented each of the officials with a paperweight.

Students from the Gary Job Corps Community have assisted in various community projects in their local area. Most recently, students assisted in the construction of barbeque and picnic area concrete slabs at the Coves of Cimarron Park in Buda. Among other projects, students assisted at the Volunteer Fire Department Firehouse in Maxwell; and with the construction of a deck at the San Marcos Information and Tourist Center, a receiving deck at the Hays County Women's Center, a fence at the San Marcos Playscape for Leadership, and other construction projects such as benches for local nursing homes and retirement communities. Gary Job Corps students definitely know how to lend a helping hand!

North Texas

North Texas Job Corps Center sponsored and participated in the First Annual Golf Tournament for the Plano Community Forum on June 20, 2003. The proceeds of this tournament benefited the Martin Luther King, Jr., Scholarship Fund for the Plano area. This was a great event for North Texas to participate in – it was an excellent way to give back to the community and have some tee time!